

acid. Peroxyoctanoic (or perooctanoic) acid is a peroxycarboxylic acid having the formula, for example, of n-peroxyoctanoic acid:  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{OOOH}$ . Peroxyoctanoic acid can be an acid with a straight chain alkyl moiety, an acid with a branched alkyl moiety, or a mixture thereof. Peroxyoctanoic acid can be prepared through any number of methods known to those of skill in the art. A solution of peroxyoctanoic acid can be obtained by combining octanoic acid and hydrogen peroxide.--

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In the Claims

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Please amend claims 23 - 30 as follows:

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23. (AMENDED) An antimicrobial concentrate composition comprising:  
a combination of peroxyacetic acid and peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid effective for killing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella javiana*, yeast, and mold on the surface of a fruit or vegetable;

the combination comprising about 35 to about 45 weight-% acetic acid, about 5 to about 15 weight-% heptanoic or nonanoic acid, about 3 to about 8 weight-% hydrogen peroxide, about 8 to about 16 weight-% peroxyacetic acid, about 1 to about 5 weight-% peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid, and about 0.1 to about 2 weight-% chelating agent.

24. (AMENDED) An antimicrobial use composition comprising:  
a combination of peroxyacetic acid and peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid effective for killing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella javiana*, yeast, and mold on the surface of a fruit or vegetable;

the combination comprising about 10 to about 150 ppm acetic acid, about 5 to about 40 ppm heptanoic or nonanoic acid, about 4 to about 20 ppm hydrogen peroxide, about 5 to about 50 ppm peroxyacetic acid, about 2 to about 25 ppm peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid, and about 0.2 to about 2.5 ppm chelating agent.

25. (AMENDED) An antimicrobial concentrate composition comprising:  
a combination of peroxyacetic acid and peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid  
effective for killing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella javiana*,  
yeast, and mold on the surface of a fruit or vegetable;  
the combination comprising an equilibrium mixture resulting from a composition of  
about 50 to about 60 weight-% acetic acid, about 10 to about 20 weight-% heptanoic or nonanoic  
acid, about 5 to about 15 weight-% hydrogen peroxide, and about 0.3 to about 1 weight-%  
chelating agent.

26. (AMENDED) An antimicrobial concentrate composition comprising:  
a combination of peroxyacetic acid and peroxyheptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid  
effective for killing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella javiana*,  
yeast, and mold on the surface of a fruit or vegetable;  
the combination comprising about 50 to about 60 weight-% acetic acid, about 10 to about  
20 weight-% heptanoic or nonanoic acid, about 5 to about 15 weight-% hydrogen peroxide, and  
about 0.3 to about 1 weight-% chelating agent.

27. (AMENDED) An antimicrobial use composition comprising:  
food product and a combination of peroxyacetic acid and peroxyheptanoic or  
peroxy-nonanoic acid effective for killing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*,  
*Salmonella javiana*, yeast, and mold on the surface of a fruit or vegetable;  
the combination comprising about 10 to about 150 ppm acetic acid, about 5 to about 40  
ppm heptanoic or nonanoic acid, about 4 to about 20 ppm hydrogen peroxide, about 5 to about  
50 ppm peroxyacetic acid, about 2 to about 25 ppm heptanoic or peroxy-nonanoic acid, and about  
0.2 to about 2.5 ppm chelating agent.

28. (AMENDED) A method of controlling microbial growth in an aqueous stream  
used for transporting or processing food product, the method comprising:

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only

30. (AMENDED) A method of controlling microbial growth in an aqueous stream used for transporting or processing food product, the method comprising:

producing the aqueous stream comprising about 10 to about 150 ppm acetic acid, about 5 to about 40 ppm heptanoic or nonanoic acid, about 4 to about 20 ppm hydrogen peroxide, about 5 to about 50 ppm peroxyacetic acid, about 2 to about 25 ppm peroxyheptanoic or peroxyonanoic acid, and about 0.2 to about 2.5 ppm chelating agent.